

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # \_\_\_\_\_

APP # 700272

**A. Statement of Planning Objectives**

The objectives of this planning project are to complete the survey, construction design, drawings and final environmental analysis for upgrading and relocating Twin Hills Road into the eastern portion of the El Mirage OHV Recreation Area. Planning will comply with sustainable environmental road and OHV facility design criteria.

**B. Relation of Proposed Project to OHV Recreation**

The Twin Hills Road is identified in the El Mirage Management Plan as a key component for providing universal access and dispersing primary vehicles within the OHV Recreation Area. Currently there are no improved or maintained roads into the eastern half of the recreation area. Most primary vehicles with OHVs, such as, campers and trucks towing trailers, are unable to access the eastern half, commonly known as the Twin Hills area. Access is also difficult for emergency vehicles. This planning project will enhance the recreation area by improving internal access, thereby reducing staging and camping congestion around the dry lakebed in the west half of the recreation area. The design of the re-alignment will incorporate the most recent and best business practices to provide a sustainable design.

**C. Statement of Activities**

Agency staff will complete the environmental analysis and contract the work for the road design. This includes steps to prepare, advertise and administer a survey and design contract for the upgraded Twin Hills Road, from Mountain View Drive 5 miles east to the Twin Hills. The environmental analysis will include new actions where necessary both to comply with soil standards, also to avoid potential impacts to special status species and their habitat. Staff will consult with other state and federal agencies regarding any special status species or habitat that are potentially in the area or nearby.

**D. List of Reports**

The contractor will provide complete construction drawings and specifications for building an environmentally sustainable Twin Hills Road. The agency will complete and approve a final NEPA document for the new road layout, including required consultation and mitigation.

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**1. Timeline for Completion**

Attachments:

[Twin Hills Rd. Project Schedule](#)

**2. Optional Project-Specific Application Documents**

**3. Optional Project-specific Maps**

Attachments:

[El Mirage Twin Hills Road Location Map](#)

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
Agency: BLM - Barstow Field Office  
Application: El Mirage Twin Hills Planning

6/2/2009

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
<b>APPLICANT NAME :</b>	BLM - Barstow Field Office		
<b>PROJECT TITLE :</b>	El Mirage Twin Hills Planning	<b>PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :</b>	
<b>PROJECT TYPE :</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION :</b>	The objectives of this planning project are to complete the survey, construction design, drawings and final environmental analysis for upgrading and relocating Twin Hills Road into the eastern portion of the El Mirage OHV Recreation Area. Planning will comply with sustainable environmental road and OHV facility design criteria.		

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>							
<b>Program Expenses</b>							
<b>1</b>	<b>Staff</b>						
	Other-Engineer	240.000	49.000	HRS	0.00	11,760.00	11,760.00
	Ecologist	500.000	45.000	HRS	0.00	22,500.00	22,500.00
	Other-Volunteer	90.000	40.000	HRS	0.00	3,600.00	3,600.00
	Resources Staff	60.000	75.000	HRS	4,500.00	0.00	4,500.00
	<b>Total for Staff</b>				16,260.00	26,100.00	42,360.00
<b>2</b>	<b>Contracts</b>						
	Other-Engineering, survey and design	1.000	85000.000	MISC	85,000.00	0.00	85,000.00
<b>3</b>	<b>Materials / Supplies</b>						
<b>4</b>	<b>Equipment Use Expenses</b>						
<b>5</b>	<b>Equipment Purchases</b>						
<b>6</b>	<b>Others</b>						
<b>7</b>	<b>Administrative Costs</b>						

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
 Agency: BLM - Barstow Field Office  
 Application: El Mirage Twin Hills Planning

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Administrative Costs-Procurement/Budget	120.000	40.000	HRS	0.00	4,800.00	4,800.00
	Administrative Costs-Management Review	120.000	65.000	HRS	0.00	7,800.00	7,800.00
	Total for Administrative Costs				0.00	12,600.00	12,600.00
Total Program Expenses					101,260.00	38,700.00	139,960.00
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES					101,260.00	38,700.00	139,960.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES					101,260.00	38,700.00	139,960.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
 Agency: BLM - Barstow Field Office  
 Application: El Mirage Twin Hills Planning

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>					
<b>Program Expenses</b>					
1	Staff	16,260.00	26,100.00	42,360.00	
2	Contracts	85,000.00	0.00	85,000.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Administrative Costs	0.00	12,600.00	12,600.00	
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>		101,260.00	38,700.00	139,960.00	
<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>		101,260.00	38,700.00	139,960.00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>101,260.00</b>	<b>38,700.00</b>	<b>139,960.00</b>	

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**ITEM 1 and ITEM 2**

**ITEM 1**

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
(Please select Yes or No)

**ITEM 2**

- b. ITEM 2 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
(Please select Yes or No)
- c. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No
- d. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 3 – 9  
This is a planning project only with no surface disturbing activities.

**ITEM 3 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands**

**ITEM 4 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project**

**ITEM 5 - Soil Impacts**

**ITEM 6 - Damage to Scenic Resources**

**ITEM 7 - Hazardous Materials**

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

**ITEM 8 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources**

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the potential impacts and for any substantially adverse changes in the significance of historical or cultural resources and measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the impacts.

**ITEM 9 - Indirect Significant Impacts**

**CEQA/NEPA Attachment**

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**1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)**

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the Project costs covered by the Applicant is 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 76% or more (10 points) ☐ 51% - 75% (5 points)  
☒ 26% - 50% (3 points) ☐ 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

**2. Planning Project - Q 2.**

**A Planning Project - Page 1**

2. The Planning Project would address the following 4

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Potential effects of OHV Recreation on special-status species habitats  
☒ Potential effects of OHV Recreation on cultural resources  
☒ Potential effects of OHV Recreation on soil conditions  
☒ Potential effects of OHV Recreation on water quality  
☒ Potential effects of OHV Recreation on other recreation uses  
☒ Potential effects of OHV Recreation on adjacent lands.  
☐ Potential impact to relationships between OHV Recreation and local residents  
☐ Toxic or hazardous materials within a Project Area or adjacent property that may impact OHV Recreation  
☒ Trail issues such as traffic patterns, trails closures, appropriate uses, etc.

**B. Planning Project - Page 2**

Explain each statement that was checked

- a. The existing Twin Hills Road would be re-located out of a wash and therefore reduce the potential for impacts to desert tortoise habitat.  
b. The road alignment corridor contains desert pavement and potential cultural resources.  
c. One reason for re-locating and designing a new alignment for Twin Hills Road is to avoid the current non-sustainable alignment.  
d. The project is located in the Mojave River watershed.  
e. The Twin Hills Road provides OHV staging and camping in eastern half of the project area, relieves congestion resulting in fewer conflicts with other recreation uses.  
f. Visitors attempt to reach the Twin Hills area from the east off Highway 395 across private property causing many problems.  
i. New design would mitigate existing poor views.

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ 6 or more items checked (4 points) ☐ 4 to 5 items checked (3 points)  
☐ 2 to 3 items checked (2 points) ☐ 1 or no items checked (No points)

**3. Motorized Access - Q 3.**

3. The Project would lead to improved facilities that provide motorized access to the following nonmotorized recreation opportunities 6

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each, up to a maximum of 6 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Camping ☐ Birding  
☒ Hiking ☐ Equestrian trails

☐ Fishing

☐ Rock Climbing

☒ Other (Specify) [desert scenic touring]

**4. Public Input - Q 4.**

4. The Project proposal was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) Scoring: Maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

☒ Meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)

☒ Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)

☒ Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

- a. Meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)

The action to improve Twin Hills Road is included in the Management Plan and EA for the El Mirage OHV Recreation Area. The plan and EA were developed with extensive public input and comment. This included formal public meetings during the review process.

- b. Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)

During the initiation process for this planning project the BLM Barstow staff held two conference calls among key staff, managers and Friends of El Mirage.

- c. Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Management of the El Mirage OHV Recreation Area includes regular formal coordination meetings among long-term stakeholders led by the Friends of El Mirage. This group meets on a semi-monthly basis to provide guidance and oversight for the project. This includes the progressive development of the recreation area through phased implementation of the management plan. This planning project was initiated through this process.

**5. Stakeholder Input - Q 5.**

5. If the Project were approved, the planning process would incorporate substantial stakeholder input: 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

☐ No (No points)

☒ Yes (5 points)

If 'Yes', explain, specifically, how it would be 'substantial'. Identify stakeholders

We would reach out to various stakeholders through our normal public outreach channels. This includes a post on the Barstow BLM web site, news release, email notices to interested parties, and a presentation at a regular meeting of the Friends of El Mirage. We would time our outreach to when the contract was awarded to provide stakeholders an opportunity to participate from the start in the layout, design and environmental review processes.

**6. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 6.**

6. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

☒ 4 or more (4 points)

☐ 2 to 3 (2 points)

☐ 1 (1 point)

☐ None (No points)

List partner organization(s)

Friends of El Mirage

AMA District 37

El Mirage Homeowners Association

Southern California Timing Association

San Bernardino County Parks Department



**7. Sustain OHV Opportunity - Q 7.**

7. The Planning Project sustains OHV Opportunity in the following manner 8

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Project will develop management plans for existing OHV Opportunity (4 points)
- ☒ Project will complete environmental review for an OHV Development Project (3 points)
- ☒ Project supports development of OHV Opportunities adjacent to population centers (3 points)
- ☒ Project supports development of OHV Opportunities in areas that lack legal OHV Opportunity (2 points)
- ☐ Project will develop a system of designated OHV routes for an existing OHV Opportunity (2 points)

Explain each statement that was checked

- b. Project will complete environmental review for an OHV Development Project (3 points).

This project includes the final site specific environmental analysis and NEPA documentation for developing Twin Hills Road within the El Mirage OHV Recreation Area.

- c. Project supports development of OHV Opportunities adjacent to population centers (3).

The El Mirage OHV Recreation Area is located in the Southern California high desert between Palmdale and Apple Valley. The city of Adelanto adjoins the eastern boundary and links with continuous housing tracts of urban development eastward through Victorville, Apple Valley and Hesperia.

- d. Project supports development of OHV Opportunities in areas that lack legal OHV Opportunity (2).

The El Mirage project area is in the northwest corner of San Bernardino County. There is no other public legal OHV riding opportunity in the Victor or Antelope Valleys. Furthermore, San Bernardino County passed an ordinance in 2006 prohibiting riding OHVs on private land.

**8. Identification of Funding Sources - Q 8.**

8. Funds for implementing the completed plan have been identified 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ No (No points) ☒ Yes (5 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

Funds for developing the road will come from a mixture of sources, primarily entry fees collected on site and grant monies from the California OHV Program and/or the Recreation Trails Program.

Reference Document

Barstow Field Office Business Plan, July 24, 2003

**9. Offsite Impacts - Q 9.**

9. The Planning Project would address offsite impacts relative to the Project Area (e.g., sound, fugitive dust, runoff): 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ No (No points) ☒ Yes (5 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

The Twin Hills Road Planning Project addresses nearby impacts to public safety and private land from project traffic. Visitors continue to try and access the Twin Hills area from the east by coming in off Highway 395 and across private land. Our project addresses these impacts because it provides the needed access to the Twin Hills area through the primary road network within the OHV recreation area.

Furthermore, this planning project would result in relocating the proposed Twin Hills staging and camping site away from the eastern boundary. An eastern entry station with a nearby staging and camping area were included in the management plan. However, an eastern entry station has been dropped from consideration (primarily because of traffic conflicts with Highway 395). The proposed new staging site is on the west side of Twin Hills, much farther from the boundary and therefore less likely to impact urban neighbors.